Emma to Mom
From Chicago
1897
makes $2.00/day
in dress
factory -

CHICAGO
NOV 8
1-30A
18 97
ILL.

9

UNITED STATES POS
2
TWO CENTS

Mrs W. Fruhling
San Jose
Cal.

177 S. 8th St.

1

Chicago, Nov. 7. '97

Dear Mother

As I did not write last Sunday, will answer both your most welcome letters in one. I am always so glad to hear from home, don't think for a moment that I will ever forget home and the dear parents and brothers & sisters, I know think of me sometimes. I often say after reading your letters, my mother never will forget one of her children though she has so many, and still has hopes of my coming home. I do not like to discourage you dear mother, for I am certainly coming to see you all again, but can't tell just when that will be. As for starting in business again in Cal., will never come to pass, I can not bear the idea. While I am far from contented with present business affairs, I will have patience for a little while. Dressmaking will never be what it used to be, one could buy half of them out for a mere song, ones that used to make money. You would be surprised to see the lovely ready made suits, fancy silk waists that are made here in Chicago by the wholesale & sent out over the whole country. It is useless for a dressmaker to try to compete with their prices, another thing which has spoiled the business is bycyles Women just live in their bicycle suits half the year, and they can be made by factories cheaper + better than any dress maker can do it. I'll either change my vocation or go to some new country where factory goods are not too plentiful. It is too hard a business to be doing it for half pay, I therefore am not in a great hurry to start in business in Chicago, there are too many anxious to sell out. You asks what I get by the day. $2.00 a day and of course expenses, but it is not steady and I do not like it. Have had plenty lately

to do at home, some from Omaha.
I am glad Millie has taken
to sewing, even if she does not
make I a business of it every
girl should have a knoledge of
sewing, if she takes my advice
she will learn it thoroughly while
she has such a good chance with
her friend, I take her to be
Mrs McKenzie, am I right?
Bertha seems to be well pleased
with her vocation, I am glad
to see it so, give the girls my
best wishes & I am going to
write to both, though my time is
pretty well occupied.

Received a letter from
Will the other day, also Arthur's
essay, and think it fine. will
enclose in another envelope with few

You may tell Julius, I feel rather slighted for he did not answer my last letter nor send me a picture of the baby. I thought he might send me one for I am liable never to see the child, maybe he does not know my address, guess I will have to send it to him. Glad to hear Miller's children were well it seems so queer they should so suddenly become strangers. but indeed I would not trouble myself over it, it is not the children's fault.

I heard of Dr. Dowie's dispensary some time ago, and meant to speak of it long ago, as I knew it would interest pa. I only know that he is here, is pastor of a church and has this dispensary, where he still cures. Some speak well of him, others do not, some say his hospital is free, others say he charges big, you do not know who to believe. Some time I will go to hear him just for the sake of pa for I know he would like to know something of him. Chicago is spread over so much ground, it takes time to go from one side of the city to the other. do not know just where his church is but can easily find out, have been pretty well over the city. just as easy for me to find my way in Chicago as it would be in San Jose. I have become accustomed to large cities and just as soon enter one a total stranger as not, but would not care to be without cash.

The climate of this city is rather damp, very often foggy in the morning, but have never seen it as bad as San Francisco nor the wind so strong, though it is known as the windy city. Perhaps you think it queer, yet I tell the truth when I say, I really long to see a good snow storm. All the time they had so much snow in Colorado & Nebraska a few weeks ago, we were enjoying lovely sunshine. I was a little tired of snow last winter, so so much of it in Minneapolis, still it is a nice climate, I like the cold dry winters. Oh, I have become a regular easterner, though I have not forgotten beautiful Cal. with its flowers & fruits. Always picture the orchards of Santa Clara valley when we have dried or canned fruit, for it all comes from there. Another thing which is advertised a great deal are Cal. blankets, in the large stores you will always see the finest blankets with cards, "Cal. blankets", one would think they had great factories there. Now I must not tire you reading this and will close with a loving good bye to you all, and a hope to have this reach you, finding all in good health. Emma